STORIES OF THE AMBIYAA
HADHRAT ISMAIL-ISHAAQ-LOOT
(aLAIHUMUS-SALAAM)

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1419-1998

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ
اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعٰلَمِيْنَ وَالصَّلٰوةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلٰى
سَيِّدِنَا وَسَنَدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَّاٰلِهٖ وَاَصْحَابِهٖ اَجْمَعِيْنَ

Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam)

Birth

Upon returning from Egypt, Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) settled in Palestine, which was then known as "Can'aan". As Hadhrat Ibrahim(Alaihis-Salaam) did not as yet have any children, he supplicated to Allaah Taa'la.

He said: " I will go to my Rabb! He will surely guide me! O my Rabb! grant me a righteous son." So we gave him the good news of a boy ready to suffer and forbear." [Saffat, 37/99-101]

Allaah Taa'la accepted his prayer, and blessed Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallahu-anha) with pregnancy. Upon hearing this Hadhrat Sarah (Radhiallahu-anha) naturally became jealous.

According to the Tauraat, Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) passed a well. There she spoke to an angel. She named the well "the well of those soon to come". Before long Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha)'s son was born. In accordance with the angel's advice, she named the child Ismaeel.

"Also mentioned in the Book is (the story of) Ishmaeel; he was (strictly) true to what he promised, and he was an apostle (and) a prophet. He used to enjoin on his people prayer and charity, and he was most acceptable in the sight of his Rabb."

[Marayam, 19/54-55]

"O our Rabb ! truly You know what we conceal and what we reveal; for nothing whatever is hidden from Allaah, whether on earth or in heaven. Praise be to Allaah, Who has granted me in old age Ishmaeel and Ishaaq; for truly my Rabb is He, the hearer of prayer! O my Rabb ! make me one who establishes regular prayer, and also (raise such) among my offspring, O our Rabb ! and accept You my prayer, O our Rabb ! cover (us) with Your forgiveness - me, my parents, and (all) believers, on the day that the reckoning will be established!" [38-41]

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The Barren Valley

The incidents after the birth of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) are narrated by Hadhrat Abdullaah-ibne-Abbaas (Radhiallahu-anhu)in the Hadith of Bukhari Shareef. The Blessed Rasul (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said:

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) took Haajira and the suckling child, Ismaeel and left them on a hill beneath a huge tree (where the well of Zam Zam now stands). The place was wild and barren, without any sign of water, Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) left them with a small leather bag filled with water and another bag filled with dates. Then he turned and began walking away. Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) walked after him saying:

'Oh Ibrahim how can you leave us in the valley, where there is no vegetation or people?'

She said this repeatedly, but Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) silently continued moving. Finally Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) asked: 'Did Allaah Taa'la command this?'
Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) replied: 'Yes! This is the command of Allah Taa'la.'
Upon hearing this, Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) said:

"If this is the command of Allaah Taa'la, then Allaah will not let us suffer."

She returned to the spot where Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) had left them. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) continued walking until he reached such a place on the hill, where his family could no longer see him. Then he turned in the direction of the Ka'aba, raised his hands and prayed:

"O my Allaah! I have settled some of my progeny in an un-cultivatable valley near the sacred house of Allaah, in order that they may establish prayer. Therefore soften the hearts of the people towards them, and sustain them with fruit, so they may be appreciative." [Ibrahim-37]

For the next few days Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) lived on the dates and water, and breast-fed the baby Ismaeel. Eventually this meagre supply was also exhausted. Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) began to worry. Due to hunger, she no longer had milk to feed the baby Ishmaeel. As the child was hungry he became restless and cried incessantly . She could not bear the sight of her child suffering, so she left the child and sat some distance away. Then she climbed the nearby mountain of Safa in hope of seeing someone or water. Then worried about her child she ran across the valley to check on him. Thereafter she climbed Mount Marwa in hope of finding some assistance. Again she ran back to check on her child. In this manner she ran up and down seven times.

When Nabi (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) reached this point whilst narrating the Hadith, he said:

"This is "Sa'ee" between Safa and Marwa which the people perform in their Haj rites."

Finally when she was on Marwa, she heard a voice. She said to herself: "Someone is calling."

She listened carefully; again she heard the voice. She called out: "I have heard you. If you can help me come forward."
She raised her eyes and saw the angel of Allaah Taa'la; Hadhrat Jibraeel (Alaihis-Salaam). The angel struck his heel where the Well of Zam Zam now stands. The water began gushing out. Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) began to dam up the water , but the water continued to gush out.

At this point Rasulullaah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said:

"May Allaah Taa'la have mercy on the mother of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam). Had she not dammed the Zam Zam , today it would have been a swiftly flowing river."

Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) drank some water and fed the child also. The angel told Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha):

"Do not worry, Allaah Taa'la will not let you or your child suffer. This is the location of the House of Allaah. which is destined to be built by this child (Ismaeel) and his father. Therefore Allaah Taa'la will not destroy this family."

The exact spot of the "Bait-ul-Allah" was a little raised but due to erosion it has been levelled out. During this time one tribe of the Bani Jurhoom stopped in a nearby valley. They saw birds circling a little distance ahead. Jurhoom said:

"This a sign of water! There must be water ahead."

Jurhoom asked Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) permission to stay there. Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) replied:
"You can stay here but you cannot claim a share in the ownership of the water."

Jurhoom happily accepted this condition.

Nabi (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said:

Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) wished for company so she happily allowed them to settle there. Jurhoom sent a person to bring the rest of his tribe. They built their houses and settled there. Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) grew up playing with the children of Bani Jurhoom. He learnt their language and their ways. When he grew up, he was noted for his good looks and fine manners. The Jurhoom got him married to one of their daughters . Shortly thereafter Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) passed away."

This lengthly Hadith is mentioned in both 'Kitaab-ul-Ru'yah' and 'Kitaab-ul-Ambiyaa' in Bukhari Shareef.

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) had left his wife and child in the desert. The natural worry for his family took him back and forth to Hijaaz many times.

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Character of a Pious Wife

The above mentioned Hadith also mentions the wife of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam):
'Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) constantly visited his family. Once upon arriving at their house, Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) was not at home. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) asked his [Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam)'s] wife as to where was he? She replied that he had gone out hunting. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) asked:
"How are you faring"
She began to complain that they were very hard pressed, and in much difficulty. Upon hearing this Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) said:

"Convey my Salaams to Ismaeel and tell him to change the threshold of his door."

When Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam)returned , he sensed his father's prophetic fragrance. He enquired:

"Did anyone come here?'
His wife narrated the entire incident. Thereupon Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) said:
"That was my father Ibrahim. He has advised me to divorce you. So I am sending you away."

Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) married again. Once again Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) visited in his absence. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) questioned this second wife in the same way. She replied: "Allaah Taa'la has bestowed many of his favours on us, we are living well."
He enquired: "What do you eat?"
She replied: "Meat."
Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) enquired: "What do you Drink?"
"Water." was the reply.
Then Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) prayed:
"Oh Allaah! Grant them Barakat in their meat and water."
When departing he left this message for Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam): "Take care of the threshold of your door."

When Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam)'s wife related the entire incident to him. Then Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) said:

"That was my father, and his message meant that you should remain my companion life-long."

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Circumcision

According to the Tauraat, when Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) was 99 years old and Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) was 13, Allaah Taa'la revealed the command of circumcision. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) first performed his own circumcision, then that of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam), then all the slaves and youth. This same ritual is still a symbol of the "Millat-e-Ibrahim." [The religion of Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam)].

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The Great Sacrifice

Those who are close to Allaah Taa'la have to endure severe trials. Likewise Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) was thrown into the fire. Thereafter he was commanded to leave Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) in the desert of 'Faaraan'. Now a third more fearful life-involving test was to come. For three nights consecutively he dreamt that Allaah Taa'la said:

"Then, when (the son) reached (the age of serious) work with him, he said: "O my son! I see in a vision that I offer you in sacrifice; now what is your view!" (The son) said: " My father! Do as you are commanded; You will find me, if Allaah so wills, one practising patience and constancy!" [Saffat 37/102]

The dreams of Ambiyaa(Alaihis-Salaam) are 'Rooyah-e-Saadiqah' (true dreams) and Divine Revelation. Therefore Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) immediately surrendered to the Divine command and prepared himself to execute the command of Allaah Taa'la. This command was not limited to himself alone, but to his son as well. He informed Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) of his dream. Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam), the son of the eminent prophet, immediately surrendered himself.

After discussion, father and son set out to the jungle to offer their sacrifice to Allaah Taa'la. With the consent of his son, the father tied up his hands and legs like an animal for slaughter. He sharpened the knife and tilted back his son's head to slaughter his son. Immediately Allaah Taa'la revealed to Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam):

"So when they had both submitted their wills (to Allaah), and he has laid him prostrate on his forehead (for sacrifice), We called out to him "O Ibrahim! You have already fulfilled the vision!" Thus indeed do We reward those who do right. For this was obviously a trial - and We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice." [103-107]

"And remember that Ibrahim was tried by his Rabb with certain commands, which he fulfilled. He said: "I will make you an Imam to the nation" He pleaded: "And also (Imams) from my offspring!" He answered: "But My promise is not within the reach of evil-doers." [Baqara, 21/124]

And We left (this blessing) for him among generations (to come) in later times: "Peace and salutations to Ibrahim." Thus indeed do We reward those who do right. For he was one of Our believing servants. [108-111]

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) turned around and saw a sheep standing near a shrub. While thanking Allaah Taa'la, Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) slaughtered the sheep. This sacrifice was so loved and accepted by Allaah Taa'la that it became a ritual of the 'Millat-e-Ibrahim'. Today on the 10th of Zil-Hijja this ritual is carried out throughout the entire world.

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The Building of the Ka'abah

Although Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) lived in Palestine, he continually visited Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) in Makkah. During this time Allaah Taa'la commanded Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) to build the Ka'abah. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) informed Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) of this. Both the father and son began to build the Bait-ul-Allaah.

"And remember Ibrahim and Ishmaeel raised the foundations of the House (with this prayer): "Our Rabb! Accept (this service) from us; for You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. Our Rabb! make of us Muslims, bowing to our (will), and of our progeny a nation of Muslims, bowing to Your (will), and show us our places for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in mercy); for You are the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. Our Rabb! send amongst them an apostle of their own, who shall rehearse Your signs to them and instruct them in Scripture and Wisdom, and sanctify them; for You are the Exalted in Might, the Wise." [Baqara, 2/127-129]

According to one Narration the very first foundation of the Bait-ul-Allaah was laid by Hadhrat Adam (Alaihis-Salaam). The angels showed Hadhrat Adam (Alaihis-Salaam) the place where the Ka'abah was to be built. But after the events of 1000's of years all that remained was a little hill of a piece of protruding land. This same spot was shown to Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) through Divine revelation. When Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) with the help from Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) began to dig the spot they found the foundation of the original building. They built the Bait-ul-Allaah on the old foundations. The Qur'aan does not mention the ancient conditions of the Ka'aba. At that time temples for the worship of idols and stars were found in every nook and cranny of the earth. On the contrary the only house where a person could worship the one Allaah was the Bait-ul-Allaah.

"Indeed the first house established for mankind was at Bakka, blessed and guidance for the worlds." [Aale-Imraan-96]

What an honourable building this was; an eminent Nabi like Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) as the mason and the Nabi prophet of the calibre of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam), the assistant! The father and son were occupied in the building of the Ka'aba. When the walls were so high that the hands of the aged father could no longer reach, then a stone was enclosed, which Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) used to support with his hands. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) would climb on the stone and continue building. This is the same monument which is known as 'Maqaame-Ibrahim'. When the building reached the height where the "Hajre-Aswad" was fixed, then Jabreel Ameen guided them and extracted the Hajre Aswad, (which is the stone from Jannat!), from where it lay protected in a nearby mountain. It was then fixed into the Ka'abah. When the "Bait-ul-Allaah" was completed, Allaah Taa'la informed Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam):
"Remember We made the House a place of assembly for men and a place of safety; and take ye the Station of Ibrahim as a place of prayer, and We covenanted with Ibrahim and Ishmaeel that they should sanctify My House for those who go around it, or use it as a retreat, or bow, or prostrate themselves (therein in prayer)." [Baqara, 2/125]
"This is the Qibla of the 'Millat-e-Ibrahim', and the direction in which they will prostrate to me." This was established as the centre of Tauheed. Thereupon Hadhrat Ibrahim and Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) prayed to Allaah Taa'la to grant their progeny the guidance to establish Salaah, to grant them steadfastness in Islam, to grant them abundance in fruit and sustenance. They also prayed that Allaah Taa'la should draw the "Bait-ul-Allaah" to the attention of all the Muslims in the world, so that they will come from different places to make Haj. They prayed to Allaah Taa'la to fill this centre of guidance with all the blessings of this earthly life.

And remember Ibrahim said: "My Rabb, make this a City of peace, and feed its people with fruits, - such of them as believe in Allaah and the Last day." he said: "(Yea), and such as reject faith, - for a while will I grant them their pleasure, but will soon drive them to the torment of fire - an evil destination (indeed)!" [126]

Remember Ibrahim said: "O my Rabb! make this city one of peace and security; and preserve me and my sons from worshipping idols. O my Rabb! they have indeed led astray many among mankind; he then who follows my (way) is of me, and he that disobeys me, - but You art indeed Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. O our Rabb! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without cultivation, by Thy Sacred House; in order, O Our Rabb, that they may establish regular prayer; so fill the hearts of some among men with love towards them, and feed them with fruits; so that they may give thanks."

[Ibrahim, 14/35-37]

Behold! We gave the site to Ibrahim, of the (Sacred) House, (saying): "Associate not anything (in worship) with Me; and Sanctify My house for those who go around it, or stand up, or bow, or prostrate themselves (therein in prayer).And proclaim the pilgrimage among men; they will come to you on foot and (mounted) on every kind of camel. Lean on account of journeys thought deep and distant mountain highways; that they may witness the benefits (provided) for them, and celebrate the name of Allaah, through the days appointed over the cattle which He has provided for them (for sacrifice): then eat you thereof and feed the distressed ones in want. Then let them complete the rites prescribed for them, perform their vows, and (again) circumambulate the Ancient House." [Hajj, 22/26/29]

The Children of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam)

According to the Tauraat, Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) had 12 sons who were known as the 12 chieftains. They were the ancestors of the Arab tribes. Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) had one daughter called Bashmia or Mahlata . The progeny of her son; Naabit is known as the "Ashaab-ul-Hijr" The progeny of her son Qeedaar is known as the "Ashaab-ur-Ras".

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The Mention of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) in the Qur'aan:

Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) is mentioned repeatedly in the Qur'aan. In Surah Maryam, both his name and his beautiful qualities have been mentioned.

"And Mention Thou [Oh Rasul (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam)]! in the book of Ismaeel, Indeed he was true to his promise. And he was an apostle, a prophet. And used to command his family with Sallah and Zakaah. And he was loved by Allaah."

[Maryam-54-55]

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The Demise of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam)

Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) passed away at the age of 136 years. According to the Tauraat he was buried in Palestine. According to the Arab historians both Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam) and his mother Hadhrat Haajira (Radhiallah-anha) were buried in the Haram Shareef, near the 'Bait-ul-Allaah'.✧

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Birth

When Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) reached the age of 100, Allaah Taa'la gave him glad tidings:

"From the stomach of Sahar, a child will be born to you. You will name him Ishaaq."

We gave her the glad tidings of Ishaaq, and after Ishaaq Yaqoob.
"(When they did not eat), he conceived a fear of them. They said: "Fear not," and they gave him good tidings for a son endowed with knowledge." [28]

"He said: "Do ye give me glad tidings that old age has seized me? Of what, then, is your good news?" They said: "We give thee glad tidings in truth, be not then in despair!" He said: "And who despairs of the mercy of his Rabb, but such as go astray." [Al-Hajr, 15/54-56]

But his wife came forward (laughing) aloud; she smote her forehead and said: "A barren old woman!" They said: "Even so has your Rabb spoken; and He is full of wisdom and knowledge."

[Zariyat, 51/29-30]

"And his wife was standing (there), and she laughed; but We gave her glad tidings of Ishaaq, and after him Yaqoob. She said: "Alas for me! shall I bear a child, seeing I am an old woman, and my husband here is an old man? That would indeed be a wonderful thing!" They said: "Do you wonder at Allaah's decree? The grace of Allaah and His blessings on you. O you people of the house! For he is indeed worthy of all praise, full of all glory!" [Hud, 11/71-73]

"And we gave him good news of Ishaaq - a prophet - one of the righteous. We blessed him and Ishaaq; but of their progeny are (some) that do right, and (some) that obviously do wrong, to their own souls." [Saffat, 37/112-113]

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Circumcision

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) performed the circumcision of Hadhrat Ishaaq (Alaihis-Salaam) when he was 8 days old.

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Marriage

According to the Tauraat, Hadhrat Ishaaq (Alaihis-Salaam) married his cousin, [Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam)'s brother's daughter]. They had 2 sons; Eesu and Yaqoob. Eesu married Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam)'s daughter. Hadhrat Yaqoob (Alaihis-Salaam) married in his maternal uncles' family.

Hadhrat Ishaaq (Alaihis-Salaam) is mentioned in the Qur'aan in Surahs: Ambiyaa, Maryam, Hood and Saafaat.✪

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Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam)

Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) and Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam):

Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) was Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam)'s cousin. Most of his childhood and upbringing was spent in the care of Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam).

Return from Egypt

Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) and his wife accompanied Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) on all his travels. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) settled in Palestine and Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) settled in Jordan. In this area there were two famous towns; Sodom and Gomorrah.

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The people of Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam)

Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) settled in Sodom. He saw that the people were sunk in sin. There was no sin that the people did not commit. The worst of their evils was that instead of marrying women, they sodomised handsome youth. Prior to this sodomy was unheard of. This was the wretched nation that initiated this filthy practice. But worse was they did not regard sodomy as evil, instead they proudly and openly carried out their evil.

"And to Loot, too, We gave judgement and knowledge, and We saved him from the town which practised abomination; truly they were a people given to evil, a rebellious people. And We admitted him to Our mercy; for he was one for the righteous."

[Ambiyaa, 21/74/75]

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Preaching the Truth

Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) admonished them on their evil practices and gently encouraged them to adopt a dignified and clean lifestyle. He tried to gently make them understand. He brought to their attention the outcome of the previous nations. But they were not in the least moved.

"The people of Loot rejected the apostles. Behold, their brother Loot said to them: "Will you not fear (Allaah)! I am not

an apostle worthy of all trust. So fear Allaah and obey me. No reward do I ask for you for it; my reward is only from the Rabb of the Worlds. Of all the creatures in the world, will you approach males, and leave those whom Allaah has created for you to be your mates? Nay, you are a people transgressing (all limits)!"

[Shu'araa, 26/160-166]

"We also (sent) Loot, who said to his people:"Do you commit lewdness such as no people in creation (ever) committed before you? you practice your lusts on men in preference to women; ye are indeed a people transgressing beyond bounds."

[A'raf, 7/80/81]

The people did not reply, except that they said:

"But his people gave no answer but this; They said: "Drive out the followers of Loot from your city; these are indeed men who want to be clean and pure!" [Naml 27/56]

"Drive them out of your city. Indeed these are very pure people." [Aa'raaf-82]

In a huge gathering Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) advised them saying:

"You people do not even have a shred of conscience. You unmindfully commit sodomy, kill and steal. You commit these evils openly in huge gatherings. Instead of being ashamed, you boast of your deeds as though you have executed something great."

"Indeed you go to men, loot on the highways, and commit evil in your gatherings."

The people enraged with his advice began saying:

"And his people came rushing towards him, and they had been long in the habit of practising abominations. He said: 'O my people! Here are my daughters; They are purer for you (if you marry)! Now fear Allaah and cover me not with shame about my guests! Is there not among you a single right-minded man?[78]

The inhabitants of the city came in (mad) joy (at the news of the young men). Loot said: "These are my guests; disgrace me not; but fear Allaah, and shame me no[Al-Hijr, 15/67/69]

"Oh Loot! stop your advices and morals. If your Allaah is angry with our deeds, then bring the punishment which you have repeatedly mentioned. The matter will be finalised if you are truthful." [Ankaboot-29]

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Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) and the Angels

While the people were arguing with Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam), Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) had a strange experience. While Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) was walking in the jungle, he saw 3 people standing in front of him. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) was very humble and always welcomed guests. He happily welcomed them home.

"Has the story reached you , of the honoured guests of Ibrahim? Behold, they entered his presence and said: "Peace!" He said: Peace!" (and thought 'these seem unusual people') Then he turned quickly to his household, brought our a fatted calf, and placed it before them. He said: "Will you not eat?" [Zariyat, 51/24-27]

He slaughtered a calf, cut the meat into small pieces, roasted it, and offered it to his guests. But they refused to eat. Hadhrat

Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) began to suspect that the may be the enemy, who according to the custom of the time, would refuse to partake of anything.

"(Ibrahim) said: "And what, O you Messengers, is your errand (now)?" They said: "We have been sent to a people (deep) in sin; - to bring on, on them (a shower of) stones of clay (brimstone), marked as from thy Rabb for those who trespass beyond bounds." [Zariyat, 51/31-34]

"Ibrahim said: "What is the business on which you (have come) O you Messengers (of Allaah)?" They said: "We have not been sent to a people (deep) in sin, excepting the adherents of Loot, them we are certainly (charged) to save (from harm), - all - except his wife, who, we have ascertained, will be among those who will lag behind." [Al-Hijr, 15/57-60]

"When fear had passed from (the mind of) Ibrahim and the glad tidings had reached him, he began to plead with Us for Loot's people. For Ibrahim was, without doubt, forbearing (of faults), compassionate, and given to look to Allaah. O Ibrahim! Seek not this. The degree of Your Rabb hath gone forth; for them there cometh a penalty that cannot be turned back! [Hud, 11/74/76]

"When our Messengers came to Ibrahim with the good news, they said: "We are indeed going to destroy the people of this town; for truly they are (addicted to) crime." He said: "But there is Loot there." They said: "Well do we know who is there; we will certainly save him and his following - except his wife; she is of those who lag behind." [Ankabut, 29/31/32]

When the angels saw Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam)'s uneasiness they laughed and said:

"Don't fear we are the angels of Allaah Taa'la. We have been sent to destroy the people of Loot. We are en-route to Sodom."

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) was now at ease that they were the angels of Allaah Taa'la, not the enemy. But his affectionate nature surfaced. He began arguing on behalf of the people of Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam):

"How can you destroy a nation when a pious person like Loot, who is my cousin and a follower of the Millat-e-Haneef, is among them,"

The angels replied:

"We are aware of everything, but it is the decision of Allaah Taa'la, that because the people are persistent in their evil, they will be destroyed. Loot and his family will remain safe, except his wife who joined the people in their evil."

Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) spoke to the people constantly:

"Did I ever request payment for constantly inviting you to the straight path? Did I beg favours of you or request any bribes?. I do not have any ulterior motives. All I wish is for you to be successful in both this world and in the Hereafter."

The people resorted to threatening Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) that they will turn him out of the town or stone him to death.

The angels left Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) and went to Sodom. They stayed as the guests of Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam). They took the appearances of handsome youths. When Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) saw his handsome guests, he feared that the people will abuse his guests. He was not aware that they were angels, not humans. While Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) was still pondering over his dilemma, the people came to

know of his guests. They barged into his house and insisted that Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) hand them over.

"And when Our Messengers came to Loot, he was grieved on their account, and he felt himself powerless (to protect) them. But they said: "Fear you not, nor grieve; we are (here) to save you and your following, except your wife, she is of those who lag behind. For we are going to bring down on the people of this town a punishment from heaven, because they have been wickedly rebellious." [33/34]

"When Our messengers came to Loot, he was grieved on their account and felt himself powerless (to protect) them. He said: "This is a distressful day." [Hud, 11/77]

And Loot, said to his people:

"Will you Commit such indecency, such that none had preceded you in the world. Verily you go lustfully to men instead of women, Undoubtedly you are a transgressing nation."
[Aa'araaf-80-81]

"They said: "We did not forbid thee (to speak) for all and sundry?" He said: "There are my daughters (to marry), if you must act (so)." [70/71]

They said: "Well do you know we have no need of your daughters; indeed you knowest quite well what we want!" He said: "Would that I had power to suppress you or that I could betake myself to some powerful support." [Hud, 11/79/80]

Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) spoke to them:

"At length when the messengers arrived among the adherents of

Loot, he said: "You appear to be uncommon folk." They said: "Yes, we have come to you to accomplish that of what they doubt. We have brought to you that which is inevitably due, and assuredly we tell the truth." [Al-Hijr, 15/61/64]
"Is there not a single decent human being among you? Why did you leave the natural path Allaah Taa'la has laid down for you? Why didn't you marry women instead of adopting these disgraceful ways? I wish I had some powerful support!"

When the Angels saw Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam)'s anxiety they said:

"Do not fear we are not young men like we appear to be, we are angels of punishment. Allaah Taa'la's Law of Retribution is unchangeable. These people will not leave their evil ways. You and your family will be saved, except your wife. She will remain with these indecent people. She will not accompany you."

He said: "I do detest your doings. O my Rabb! deliver me and my family from such things as they do!"

[Shu'araa, 26/168/169]

"Then travel by night with thy household, when a portion of the night (yet remains), and do you bring up the rear; let no one amongst you look back, but pass on whither you are ordered." And We made known this degree to him, that the last remnants of those (sinners) should be cut off by the morning." [65/66]

"When Our degree issued. We turned (the cities) upside down, and rained down on them brimstone hard as baked clay, spread layer on layer - marked as from thy Rabb, not are they ever far from those who do wrong!" [82/83]

"But we save him and his family, except his wife; she was of those who lagged behind." [A'raf, 7/83]

"Behold! In this are signs for those who by tokens do understand. And the (cities were) right on the high road. Behold! in this is a sign for those who believe!" [Al Hijr, 15/75/77]

"And (Loot) did warn them of Our punishment, but they disputed about the warning. And they even sought to snatch away his guests from him, but We blinded their eyes. (They heard) "Now taste you My wrath and My warning."
[Qamar 54/36/37]

Thus in brief the wrath of Allaah Taa'la descended. In the early portion of the night, upon the instruction of the angels, Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) and his people left Sodom. His wife refusing to accompany him turned back on his way. First there was a terrifying shriek which capsized the town, then it was raised from its foundations and flung upside down. Thereafter they were showered with stones.

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Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam)-The saint of Ambiyaa-Prophets

Aside from the morals and advices in the story of Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) another fact is highlighted i.e. even among the Ambiyaa (Alaihis-Salaam), Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) occupies a lofty status. The teachings of all the Ambiyaa (Alaihis-Salaam) were based on propagating the unity of Allaah Taa'la and refuting idolatry. But Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) was the one prophet who encountered extremely severe difficulties and trials in this work.

After thousands of prayers and wishes, in his old age, one son was born. Then while that child is only a milk-drinking infant, the command of Allaah Taa'la descended:

"Oh Ibrahim! Take this child and his mother, and leave them in a wild and barren desert."

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) did not even contemplate the matter, nor did he present any excuses, he immediately carried out the commands of Allaah Taa'la. When this child grew up and he was the pride and joy of his parents, Allaah Taa'la commanded Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam): "Sacrifice this child of yours in my name. Prove that you are faithful."

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) did not try to make a different interpretation of the dream. He woke in the morning and took his son to be sacrificed.

The third great test was when his father, his people, the king, and everyone turned against him. They kindled a blazing fire to burn him to death. In spite of all this Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) calmly and peacefully continued inviting the people to the straight path.

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) also established the great difference between unity and idolatry. When rejecting idolatry and star-worship, he said:

"Indeed I have set my face towards Him, who has created the heavens and the earth, Haneefa (on the true path I am) and I am not from the polytheists." [An'amm]

The first time Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) said this, he had given the path of Allaah Taa'la the title of "Haneef" (the straight path). This distinguishing between unity and polytheism was so loved and accepted by Allaah Taa'la, that it became the foundation of all future Ambiyaa-(Prophets). Even the message of the Last Prophet Hadhrat Muhammad (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was given the title "Millat-e-Haneef", and his followers were called "Muslim".

"And follow the faith of Ibrahim, Haneefa (straight).'[Nisaa- 125]

"And he (Ibrahim), named you Muslim, from before and in this (Qur'aan). [Haj-78]

In Surah Ibrahim the incidents of all the different Ambiyaa are mentioned. The conditions and outcome of all the Ambiyaa-prophets have been mentioned collectively. The outcome of the disbelievers and the Muslims have been shown. In view of all these great specialities, it can be said that Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) is the saint of Ambiyaa-(prophets).

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Some Morals

1. When any belief becomes firmly ingrained in a person's heart, then no difficulty can turn him away. The life of Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) is an excellent example of this.

2. For the protection of the Deen, one needs such proofs, which will affect the hearts of the people, and compel them to accept the truth. As the verse of the Qur'aan states:

"And debate with them the best of means."

3. The method of the Ambiyaa (Alaihis-Salaam) is that they do not become involved in technical arguments. Instead they use the natural phenomena to draw the people to Allaah Taa'la. In the same way Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) refuted the idolatry and star-worship of the people, and the godliness of Namrud.

4. When trying to prove the truth, if one outwardly accepts the opposite beliefs, it cannot be called a lie or the acceptance of falsehood. One says "for argument's sake." This same method is used to expose the truth.

5. If one's parents are idolaters, who refuse to abstain from their polytheistic ways, one should still be kind to them and respect them, and not become involved in their evils.

6. Although a Muslim's faith may be firm and sound, but if he delves deeper to find out the reality of anything, it is not called 'kufr', but the strengthening of one's Imaan.

7. To entertain guests, not for show, but out of kind and generous spirit, is to be blessed with a virtuous personality.

Some Kitaabs have mentioned a wonderful incident regarding the hospitality of Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam):

'Once Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) was waiting in the jungle for a guest because he never ate without a guest. He saw a bent old man hobbling along with his walking stick. Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) cheerfully went forward, supported him, and took him home. The table cloth was laid and food was served. Upon completing the meal, Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) said:

"Be grateful to that One Allaah, who has granted us these bounties."

The old man exclaimed angrily:

"I don't know who is your One Allaah! I will thank that idol in my house."

Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) found this very hard to accept, so he immediately sent him away. Soon thereafter Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam) regretted his action. He thought:

"The greatness of that One Allaah to whom I have tried to make him express gratitude, is such that; thought his life, Allaah has granted this old man from his bounties. Not once did Allaah, out of anger at his idol-worship, stop his sustenance. So what right do I have to turn him out of my house, because he did not listen to me and accept the truth."

8. Those personalities, who Allaah Taa'la chooses for his work, Allaah Taa'la has illuminated their hearts to such an extent, that nothing can overpower their love for the truth. From childhood Allaah Taa'la has distinguished from their peers. They are an example in bearing difficulty for the truth, as in the case of Hadhrat Ishmaeel (Alaihis-Salaam).

9. Although Hadhrat Loot (Alaihis-Salaam) was the nephew and follower of Hadhrat Ibrahim (Alaihis-Salaam), he was also endowed with prophethood. Therefore in spite of the severe abuse of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, he remained patient and steadfast in the work of Allaah. Instead of turning to his uncle for assistance, he placed full trust in Allaah Taa'la.✧

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LESSONS LEARNT

1. Hijraat (migration for Allaah) earns Nusraat (help of Allaah).
2. The unseen help of Allaah results from sacrifice.
3. Ambiyaa (as) are obedient servants of Allaah.
4. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the help from Allaah.
5. The sacrificial actions of Hadhrat Ibrahim (as) and Hadhrat Hajira(ra) and Hadhrat Ismail (as) became Hajj rites for the Ummat of Nabi(saw).
6. The Ambiyaa (as)'s dreams are Divine Inspirations.
7. Ambiyaa(as) are sent for the guidance of mankind.
8. Those who accept and follow the teachings of the Ambiyaa (as) obtain salvation.
9. Salvation does not depend on being a relative of a Nabi or a pious person.
10. Those who do not accept the message of the Ambiyaa (as) will sooner or later be punished.
11. To enjoin what is good, forbid what is evil, up-hold the Truth and strive against the false groups is the responsibility of every Muslim.
12. Sacrifice of wealth, children, family, home, relatives, close friends, comforts, desires and even one's own life show strength of Imaan.
13. The purpose of the Ambiyaa(as) which was to invite the creations to the oneness of Allaah should become the purport of our lives also.
14. One should invite towards Allaah, pray and place one's confidence in Allaah.

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